



EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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POPE APPOINTS VERY REVEREND GERALD DINO FOURTH BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF VAN NUYS AND ASSIGNS BISHOP WILLIAM SKURLA TO PASSAIC EPARCHY



*Very Reverend Gerald N. Dino
Bishop-elect of Van Nuys*

Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of 80-year-old Bishop Andrew Pataki of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic (New Jersey) and appointed Bishop William C. Skurla of the Byzantine Eparchy of Van Nuys (California), 51, as his successor. The Pope also named Very Reverend Gerald N. Dino, 67, protosyncellus of the Passaic Eparchy and pastor of St. George Parish, Linden, New Jersey, to succeed Bishop Skurla as Bishop of Van Nuys.

The resignation and the appointments were announced in Washington, December 6, 2007 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Skurla's enthronement will take place at the Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel, in



*Most Reverend William C. Skurla,
newly appointed Bishop of Passaic*

Passaic, January 29, 2008. Bishop-elect Dino will be ordained and enthroned at Saint Helen Catholic Church in Glendale, Arizona on March 27, 2008. The Eparchy of Passaic of the Ruthenians, USA, comprises Catholics of the Byzantine-Ruthenian rite in New Jersey, the District of Columbia and some 25 states, primarily on the East Coast and as far south as Florida.

Bishop Skurla, a native of Duluth, Minnesota, earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in New York in 1981. He attended Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pennsylvania, where he earned a master of divinity degree in 1986 and a master of theology degree in 1987. He was professed as a member of the Franciscans in Sybertsville, Pennsylvania, in 1985, and ordained a priest in 1987. In 1996, he was incardinated into the Eparchy of Van Nuys and named bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys in 2002.

Gerald N. Dino was born in Binghamton, New York, on January 11, 1940. He received a bachelor of arts degree, *cum laude*, from Duquesne University in 1961, and a master of divinity degree from Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, in 1965. He was ordained a priest for the Eparchy of Passaic on March 21, 1965. He received a licentiate degree in Oriental Ecclesiastical Studies from the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, in 1972. He completed graduate work in religious communication from Loyola University, New Orleans, 1973. After ordination, he was assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Pottstown, Pennsylvania in 1967; St. Michael Church, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, 1967-1969, and pastor of St. Nicholas Church, Dunellen, New Jersey, 1969-1970. He did graduate studies in Rome from 1970-1972, and from 1973-1979, was professor and academic dean at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh. From 1979-1996, he was pastor of Holy Ghost Church in Jessup, Pennsylvania and from 1996 until present, pastor of Saint George Church in Linden. In 2000, he was named administrator of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

CATECHETICAL MEETING IN ANAHEIM

On Saturday, March 1, 2008 a Catechetical gathering will be held at Annunciation Church, 995 North West Street, Anaheim, California. Reverend Anthony Hernandez and Sister Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM, Co-Directors of Religious Education for the Eparchy of Van Nuys will be the presenters for the program, "A Byzantine Catholic's Life in Christ." The Divine Liturgy for All Souls Saturday will be celebrated at 9 AM followed by an opening prayer and program beginning at 10:30 AM. After lunch, time allows for a trip to the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. Fliers with registration information are available from Pastors and ECF Coordinators.

MYRRH-BEARERS RETREAT: "Embracing Our Call"

Myrrh-bearers is a retreat experience for girls (7 years old and over) and women. It is an opportunity to grow in a deeper relationship with our Lord. The title, "Myrrh-Bearers" was chosen to emphasize the unique role of women as evangelizers. All four Gospels place women at the tomb to become the first witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Today, women are called to continue this acclamation to the world. Today, women are called to be Myrrh-Bearers into the 21st Century. You are invited to bring this "Good News" to the world. Are you willing to accept this challenge?

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 27 through Sunday, June 29, 2008 at Mount Claret Retreat Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Brochures including registration are available from your parish or by calling the Eparchy of Van Nuys Pastoral Center at (602) 861-9778.

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The Eparchy of Van Nuys of the Ruthenians, USA, was established on December 3, 1981, and canonically inaugurated on March 9, 1982. Its territory includes parishes in the states of Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii and Alaska.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

In January, updated brochures and posters will be available for the Eparchial Safe Environment program. Article 12 of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People states that "Eparchies will establish Safe Environment programs... provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children." The Eparchy of Van Nuys is committed to responding to this mandate. The posters and brochures will provide a valuable, insightful vehicle to provide additional information on a Safe Environment.

BISHOP'S APPEAL 2008

Bishop's Appeal 2008 will begin on January 6, 2008. Please look for your pledge card and letter from bishop in the mail. If each family contributes at least \$200, we will make our goals for 2008! Show your support for your parish and for your bishop by pledging early. God bless your generosity!

REVEREND JAMES LANE ORDAINED A PRIEST

Reverend James Lane, Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop William Skurla at the Cathedral of Saint Mary in Sherman Oaks, CA on April 28, 2007. Prior to his ordination, he was incardinated into the Eparchy of Van Nuys in 2006 and served as Deacon at the Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA.

Since his ordination and after his appointment to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, he has been very busy in Albuquerque celebrating the Divine Liturgy and holy services, hearing confessions, visiting the sick and attending to daily office tasks in the parish office!

*God grant his servant the priest James
many happy and blessed years!*

My Prayer for you and your loved ones this Christmas is that you would know more fully the God who is with us, that you would be strengthened in the Hope He brings us. And that nothing will separate you from His Love.

Terrence Cardinal Cooke, 1982





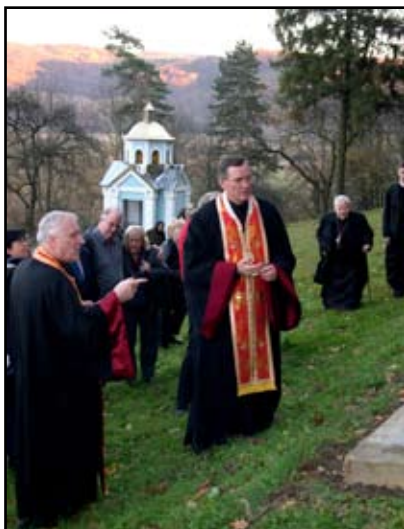
*+Blessed Theodore Romzha Pilgrimage
Holy Cross Cathedral, Eparchy of Mukachevo
Uzhorod, Ukraine
November 1, 2007*

In October, hierarchs, clergy and faithful travelled to the Eparchy of Mukachevo (Uzhorod, Ukraine) where they attended conferences and celebrated commemorative holy services on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the death of martyred bishop Blessed Theodore G. Romzha. Blessed Theodore's Feast Day is celebrated on November 1. Bishop Milan Sasik, CM is administrator of the Mukachevo Eparchy.



*Cathedral of the Holy Cross,
Eparchy of Mukachevo, Uzhorod*

Archbishop Basil Schott, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, Bishop William C. Skurla, Eparch of Van Nuys and Bishop John Kudrick, Eparch of Parma travelled throughout the southwestern Ukraine including stops in Ivanovci and Mukachevo. American Pilgrims from throughout the Metropolia were among those in attendance at Holy Cross Cathedral in Uzhorod on November 1, 2007 where Archbishop Basil was the main celebrant for the Feast Day Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. After the Liturgy, a Panachida service was offered at the entrance to the crypt of the cathedral for Empress Maria Theresa and other supporters and defenders of the Greek Catholic Church.



*Bishop Ladislav Hucko (Exarchate of Prague),
Bishop Milan Sasik, CM (Eparchy of Mukachevo)
in Male Berezny*

The American pilgrims, led by Bishop William, travelled the following week to Mariapocs (Hungary), Mukachevo (Ukraine), Kocise, Presov (Slovakia) and Prague (Czech Republic), celebrating the Divine Liturgy in each location before returning home on November 9, 2007.



Hierarchs and Clergy were present representing Eparchies in Ukraine (Mukachevo), Eastern Europe, and America at Blessed Theodore Romzha Academy, Uzhorod

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CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!



EPARCHIAL CALENDAR



2007

December 1	Saint Nicholas Family Celebration, St. Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ
December 6	Feast Day of Saint Nicholas of Myra
December 8	Conception of Saint Ann
December 9	Saint Nicholas Dinner, Saint Nicholas of Myra Church, Fontana, CA
December 12	Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 25	Nativity of Our Lord
December 27	Feast Day of Saint Stephen the Protomartyr

2008

January 1	Circumcision of Our Lord Feast Day of Saint Basil the Great
January 6	Theophany of Our Lord - Beginning of Annual Bishop's Appeal
January 6	First All Souls Saturday
January 29	Feast Day of the Three Holy Hierarchs, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom Enthronement of Bishop William C. Skurla, fourth Bishop of the Eparchy of Passaic, Cathedral of St. Michael, Passaic NJ
February 2	Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna
February 4	First Day of the Great Fast
March 1	Catechetical Meeting at Annunciation Church, Anaheim, CA
March 16	Palm Sunday
March 23	Resurrection of Our Lord - PASCHA
March 25	Bright Tuesday - Annunciation of the Mother of God
March 27	Ordination and Enthronement of Bishop Gerald Dino, fourth Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys
March 30	Thomas Sunday
April 1-3	Eastern Hierarchs Meeting, St. Louis, MO
April 21-24	Clergy Days, Sheraton Four Points, San Diego, CA and 50th Anniversary of Holy Angels Church
May 13	Seminary Advisory Board Meeting, SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA
May 14	Vocation Directors Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA